

(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets

(11) Veröffentlichungsnummer:

(11) Publication number:

EP 1 233 697 A0

(11) Numéro de publication:

Internationale Anmeldung veröffentlicht durch die
Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum unter der Nummer:

WO 01/024845 (art. 158 des EPÜ).

International application published by the World
Intellectual Property Organisation under number:

WO 01/024845 (art. 158 of the EPC).

Demande internationale publiée par l'Organisation
Mondiale de la Propriété sous le numéro:

WO 01/024845 (art. 158 de la CBE).

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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 April 2001 (12.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24845 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61B 5/02**

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/US00/27654**

(22) International Filing Date: **6 October 2000 (06.10.2000)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
60/158,097 7 October 1999 (07.10.1999) US

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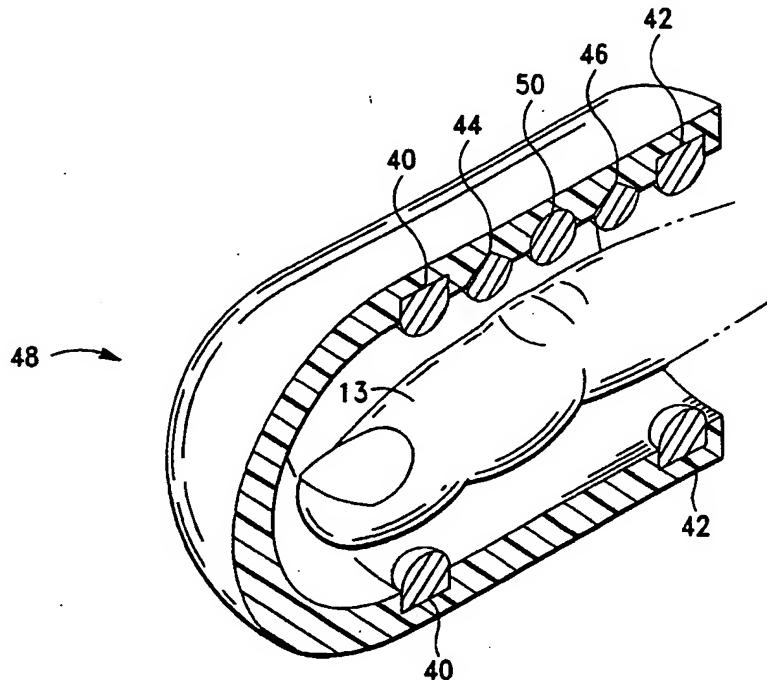
(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *With international search report.*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR NON-INVASIVE CONTINUOUS DETERMINATION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF A PATIENT'S BLOOD**



(57) Abstract: The invention comprises devices for noninvasively monitoring physiological characteristics of a patient's blood. Generally, probes (48) having radiation emitters and detectors (40,42) are used to determine absorbance of blood within the patient's tissue to determine various blood parameters. The device also has either a position sensor (50) for determining the

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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
7 June 2001

position of the probe (48) with respect to the patient's heart or a movement generator for altering the position of the probe (48) with respect to the patient's heart. The invention also comprises methods for noninvasively monitoring the physiological characteristics. In one embodiment, induced positional changes create differential hydrostatic pressures to facilitate measurement of blood parameters by absorbance. In a second embodiment, delays in pulse arrival times in coupled organs or members on opposite sides of the body are measured to determine cardiac output. The two methods are such that they can advantageously be used together.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/27654

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :A61B 5/02

US CL :600/481, 407, 473, 476, 479

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 600/481, 407, 473-480, 483, 484, 500, 501, 502, 504, 507, 465, 454, 437

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,778,879 A (OTA et al) 14 July 1998, col. 2, lines 23-50, and Figs. 1 and 7.	1, 8, 13, 20, and 25
Y	US 5,111,826 A (NASIFF) 12 May 1992, col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 20, col. 6, line 67 to col. 7, line 66, and Figs. 1, 2, and 10.	1, 8, 13, 20, and 25
X	JP 04064334 A (SENGOKU) 28 February 1992, Abstract and Figs. 1 and 2.	1-25
A	JP 03140138 A (CLAXTON, III et al) 14 June 1991, Abstract.	1, 8, 13, 20, and 25
A	US 4,998,534 A (Claxton, III et al) 12 March 1991, Abstract.	1, 8, 13, 20, and 25
X	JP 63311929 A (YAMAZAWA) 20 December 1988, Abstract and Figs. 1 and 2.	1-25

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Date of the actual completion of the international search
22 FEBRUARY 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report
30 MAR 2001

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/27654

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 63283625 A (TERADA et al) 21 November 1988, Abstract.	1, 8, 13, 20, and 25